



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
1849 C. Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

December 18, 2018

A7221 (2550)

Austin Evers,
Executive Director
American Oversight
1030 15th Street NW, Suite B55
Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear Mr. Evers:

Subject: Response to Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Request NPS-2019-00143.

This letter is in response to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request dated October, 31, 2018, in which you requested “All email communications and associated attachments sent or received by any political appointee,* including emails on which any custodian is copied (cc’d) or blind copied (bcc’d). Responsive records are limited to those including any of the following terms:

- IPCC
- “Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change”
- “United Nations report”
- UN
- “1.5 C”
- “1.5 degrees”
- “global warming”
- “climate change” “

We have completed a search of our records and have located 1 file, containing an estimated 28 pages of responsive material which has been attached.

Additionally, during our search we have located 1 document, totaling 78 pages, that originated with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). In accordance with 43 CFR 2.13(b)(2) and (d) we have referred the materials to the EPA for a release determination and direct response to you. You do not have to contact the EPA at this time, but should you need to do so in the future, you may do so at:.

National Freedom of Information Officer
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW (2822T)
Washington, DC 20460
HQ.FOIA@epa.gov

You have the right to consider this response to be an administrative denial of your request. You may file an appeal by writing to:

Freedom of Information Act Appeals Officer
Office of the Solicitor
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
MS-6556-MIB,
Washington, D.C. 20240
foia.appeals@sol.doi.gov

Your appeal must be received no later than 30 workdays after the date of this final response. The appeal should be marked, both on the envelope and the face of the appeal letter, with the legend "FREEDOM OF INFORMATION APPEAL." Your appeal should be accompanied by a copy of your original request and copies of all correspondence between yourself and the National Park Service related to this request, along with any information you have which leads you to believe the records are available, including where they might be found, if the location is known to you. Please note, appeals received after 5 p.m. EST will be considered to have been received as of the following day.

Also as part of the 2007 OPEN Government Act FOIA amendments, the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) was created to offer mediation services to resolve disputes between FOIA requesters and Federal agencies as a nonexclusive alternative to litigation. Using OGIS services does not affect your right to pursue litigation.

You may contact OGIS in any of the following ways:

Office of Government Information Services (OGIS)
National Archives and Records Administration
Room 2510
8601 Adelphi Road
College Park, MD 20740-6001

E-mail: ogis@nara.gov
Phone: 301-837-1996
Fax: 301-837-0348
Toll-free: 1-877-684-6448

Additionally, because the National Park Service creates and maintains law enforcement records, we are required by the Department of Justice to provide the following information, even though it may or may not apply to your specific request. Congress excluded three discrete categories of law enforcement and national security records from the requirements of the FOIA. See 5 U.S.C. 552(c) (2006 & Supp. IV 2010). This response is limited to those records that are subject to the requirements of the FOIA. This is a standard notification that we are required to give all our requesters and should not be taken as an indication that excluded records do, or do not, exist.

Should you have any further questions or concerns, I can be reached at the address above or by phone at 202-354-1449. I can also be reached via e-mail at jessica_mchugh@nps.gov.

Sincerely,

JESSICA MCHUGH
Digitally signed by
JESSICA MCHUGH
Date: 2018.12.18
09:37:47 -05'00'

Jessica McHugh
WASO FOIA Liaison

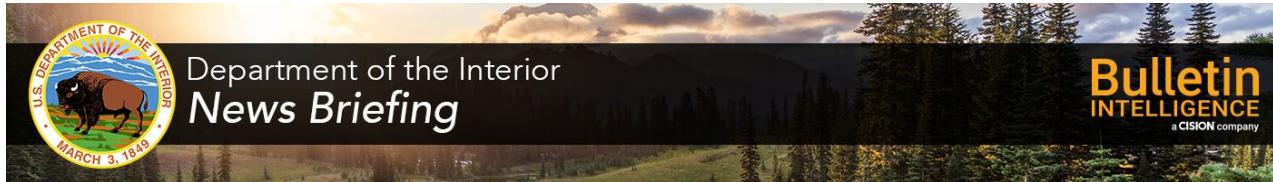
Conversation Contents

[EXTERNAL] U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Thursday, September 27, 2018

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>

From: Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>
Sent: Thu Sep 27 2018 04:00:59 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Thursday, September 27, 2018

Mobile version and searchable archives available [here](#). Please [click here](#) to subscribe.



DATE: THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2018 6:00 AM EDT

Today's Table Of Contents

DOI In The News

- Daily Caller: Ryan Zinke Predicts US Offshore Oil Production Will 'Begin To Decline'.
- Missoulian (MT): Badger-Two Medicine Stakeholders Watching Zinke's Next Move.
- Billings (MT) Gazette: FWP Recommends 4 Areas For Protection By Interior Department.
- Reuters: Hopi Tribe Urges U.S. To Save Arizona Navajo Coal Plant From Closing.
- Walker (MN) Pilot-Independent: Walker Native Scot Storm Wins Federal Duck Stamp Contest.

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

- One Step Closer: BIA Issues Environmental Statement On Eagle Mountain Casino Move.

Bureau Of Indian Education

- Assistant Secretary Sweeney Announces \$74.2 Million In Funding For Design-Build Contracts For Two New School Buildings.

Bureau Of Land Management

- Grand Junction (CO) Daily Sentinel: BLM OKs Utah Oil Shale Utilities Right Of Way.

Bureau Of Reclamation

- Bureau Of Reclamation Awards Nearly \$76 Million For Cle Elum Dam Work.

Fish And Wildlife Service

- Associated Press: Republicans Seek Widespread Changes To The Endangered Species Act.
- Politico: The SCOTUS And The Frog.
- New Orleans Times-Picayune: Airport In A Wildlife Refuge? State-backed Plan Shocks Conservationists, Scientists.
- Palm Beach (FL) Post: Anglers Barred From Popular Fishing Spot After Gators Get Aggressive.

DOI-NPS-18-0767-A-000001

- WKBT-TV La Crosse (WI): Onalaska Boat Landing Is Closed For Construction.
- New Orleans Advocate: Wildlife Refuge Canoe Trips Offer Up Close Look At Big Branch Marsh.
- Associated Press: Bow Hunter Kills Attacking Grizzly On Blackfeet Reservation.

National Park Service

- Atlanta Daily World: The National Park Service Grants Wheat Street Baptist Church Half A Million Dollars.
- Bismarck (ND) Tribune: Bismarck Aims To Become State's Eighth CLG.
- Williamson (WV) Daily News: New River Gorge Park Plan Gains Support.
- Wausau (WI) Daily Herald: Duffy Sponsors Resolution To Honor Rib Mountain, Paul Bunyan.
- Santa Rosa (CA) Press Democrat: Huffman Bill Assuring 20-year Leases For Point Reyes Ranchers Clears House.
- Cape Cod (MA) Times: Cape Cod National Seashore To Get \$9.7M In Upgrades.
- Ellsworth (ME) American: Sumner High School Building Plan Awaits Park Service Approval.
- Associated Press: Private Landowner Selling Land Around Zion's Narrow.
- Seattle Post-Intelligencer: Olympic Park's Mountain Goats Are On The Move – 98 Relocated.
- Atlanta Journal-Constitution: National Park Service Plan Would Protect Georgia Species At Risk.
- KOB-TV Albuquerque (NM): Fungus Threatens Bats At New Mexico Monument.
- KALW-FM San Francisco: At Alcatraz Alumni Reunion, Former Convicts Are Rockstars.
- Clearwater (ID) Tribune: Visitor Centers At Spalding And Big Hole To Adjust Operational Days.
- Waynesville (NC) Smoky Mountain News: National Park Volunteers Receive Regional Recognition.
- Jackson Hole (WY) News & Guide: Park-goers Lend A Hand To Public Lands.
- Helena (MT) Independent Record: Man Fired Shotgun At Wolves Chasing His Dogs In Yellowstone National Park, Report Says.

US Geological Survey

- Laboratory Equipment: Climate Change Not Main Driver Of Amphibian Decline.

Opinion Pieces

- Legislative Package By The Western Caucus Needed To Bring Improvements To Endangered Species Act.
- Additional Reading.

Top National News

- CBS: Trump Says China Trying To Interfere In Midterms.
- NBC: Trump Doubles Down: Allegations Against Kavanaugh "A Big, Fat Con Job."
- Associated Press: Fed Touts Strong Economy, Signals Intent To Continue Raising Rates Into 2020.
- Associated Press: Media Analyses: Trump Reveled In "Freewheeling" News Conference.

Editorial Wrap-Up

- New York Times.
 - "We Know How To Conquer Tuberculosis."
 - "Hit Pause On Brett Kavanaugh."
- Washington Post.
 - "The Senate Can't Handle This. The FBI Can."
 - "Poland Suggested Naming A Fort After Trump. Will That Really Improve Its Relations With The United States?"
 - "A 74-Year-Old Was Left In A Burned Down Building For Five Days. How?"
- Wall Street Journal.
 - "Democrats Endorse Avenatti."
 - "The Fed Gets Optimistic."

- "Silicon Valley's Supreme Salvation."

Big Picture

- Headlines From Today's Front Pages.

Washington Schedule

- Today's Events In Washington.

Last Laughs

- Late Night Political Humor.

DOI In The News

Ryan Zinke Predicts US Offshore Oil Production Will 'Begin To Decline'.

The [Daily Caller](#) (9/26, Bastasch) reports that Interior Secretary Zinke said at the National Clean Energy Week summit that he "expects offshore oil production to 'remain steady and then begin to decline' because onshore drilling, particularly in shale formations, is much more lucrative for companies." Zinke said, "It is more expensive to produce energy offshore, and it's riskier."

Ryan Zinke Confronts Protesters During Clean Energy Speech: 'Please Sit Down'. The [Washington Examiner](#) (9/26, Siegel) reports that Interior Secretary Zinke "confronted and chided protesters who interrupted him" yesterday "as he delivered a speech on the Trump administration's commitment to cleaner fuels as part of its 'energy dominance' agenda." Two protesters interrupted the speech by Zinke "at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C. recognizing National Clean Energy Week." One protestor "referenced Zinke's ties to the fossil fuel industry. Another, off topic, complained about Trump's Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh." Zinke said, "That is so inappropriate. Please sit down. ... It is never nice to be rude." He "used the disruption to riff off-the-cuff against the polarization of politics."

Also reporting is the [Daily Caller](#) (9/26, Bastasch).

Badger-Two Medicine Stakeholders Watching Zinke's Next Move.

The [Missoulian \(MT\)](#) (9/26, Reilly) reports that "following Monday's court rulings reinstating oil and gas drilling leases in the Badger-Two Medicine area," observers are watching to see how Interior Secretary Zinke will respond. However, Zinke has "given scant indication of his next steps." Asked to comment on "either the case or the possibility of a monument designation, Zinke spokesperson Heather Swift referred the Missoulian back to the 2017 report recommending Badger-Two Medicine's status as a monument."

FWP Recommends 4 Areas For Protection By Interior Department.

The [Billings \(MT\) Gazette](#) (9/26) reports that "Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks has recommended four priority migration corridors to the Department of Interior for protection at the agency's request." Interior Secretary Zinke "announced in a Monday press release that the department will begin the next steps in the conservation of these big game migration corridors and winter ranges in 11 western states." Zinke said in the statement, "When it comes to wildlife and habitat conservation, we all know that animals go where animals want to go, and more often than not that's dependent upon natural features like watersheds, rather than whether land is owned by the BLM, state, or private landowners. Which is why we are starting to manage habitat at a bigger landscape scale. My goal is healthy herds for American hunters and wildlife watchers, and this feedback will help identify and protect migration corridors for iconic big game species like elk, mule deer and antelope. We've already seen early success working with the State of Wyoming, and now I'm looking forward to working with 10 more states to protect even more habitat."

Hopi Tribe Urges U.S. To Save Arizona Navajo Coal Plant From Closing.

DOI-NPS-18-0767-A-000003

[Reuters](#) (9/26, DiSavino) reports the Hopi Tribe has “called on the U.S. government to explore options to keep the Navajo coal-fired power plant in Arizona in service after a potential buyer of the plant decided not to pursue ownership.” Middle River Power “said last week it will no longer pursue a bid for the facility in part because of difficulty finding enough buyers for the plant’s power, according to local news.” In a statement Hopi Tribe vice chairman Clark Tenakhongva said, “The United States Government must either continue to buy power from (Navajo), or provide the Hopi Tribe with support necessary to avoid an economic catastrophe.”

Walker Native Scot Storm Wins Federal Duck Stamp Contest.

The [Walker \(MN\) Pilot-Independent](#) (9/26) reports that an artist from Freeport, Minn. has won the 2018 Federal Duck Stamp Art Contest. Scot Storm’s acrylic painting of a wood duck and decoy will be made into the 2019-2020 Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp. Interior Secretary Zinke said, “Waterfowl hunters are some of our nation’s most passionate wildlife conservationists. More than 80 years after it was established, sales of the Duck Stamp to hunters, bird watchers, outdoor enthusiasts and collectors have raised more than \$1 billion to conserve nearly six million acres of habitat for birds and other wildlife and provide countless opportunities for hunting and recreation on our public lands.”

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

One Step Closer: BIA Issues Environmental Statement On Eagle Mountain Casino Move.

The [Porterville \(CA\) Recorder](#) (9/26) reports that “the Tule River Indian Tribe moved closer to the approval of the Eagle Mountain Casino relocation with the issuance by the Bureau of Indian Affairs of its draft environmental impact statement (EIS) on the proposed relocation.” The BIA “issued its Notice of Availability informing the public of the release of draft EIS and commencing the 45-day comment period.”

Bureau Of Indian Education

Assistant Secretary Sweeney Announces \$74.2 Million In Funding For Design-Build Contracts For Two New School Buildings.

[KBKW-AM](#) Aberdeen, WA (9/26, Haviland) reports that Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs Tara Mac Lean Sweeney has announced “that the Blackwater Community School, located within the Gila River Indian Community in Coolidge, Ariz., will receive \$30.1 million dollars, and the Quileute Tribe will receive \$44.1 million dollars for the Quileute Tribal School located on Quileute reservation in La Push, Wash., to award design-build contracts for new school buildings.” Sweeney said, “Today is a great day for Native education at Indian Affairs. I am excited for the next phase of this process to initiate for these schools. I appreciate everyone involved with these projects from Indian Affairs, Bureau of Indian Education, the schools, and tribal communities for their dedication to take these schools from an idea to the world-class buildings that they will become.”

Bureau Of Land Management

BLM OKs Utah Oil Shale Utilities Right Of Way.

The [Grand Junction \(CO\) Daily Sentinel](#) (9/26, Webb) reports that the Bureau of Land Management yesterday “said it has approved a proposed utility right of way for a northeast Utah oil shale project.” The decision “facilitates the supply of utilities to Enefit American Oil’s South Project, and transport of produced oil from it.” Enefit is “seeking to develop a 50,000-barrel-a-day project to produce oil from shale on private land and minerals owned by the company.”

Bureau Of Reclamation

Bureau Of Reclamation Awards Nearly \$76 Million For Cle Elum Dam Work.

[KQO-AM](#) Seattle (9/25, Rounce) reports that the Bureau of Reclamation "awarded a \$75,967,000 contract on Sept. 17 to Spokane's Garco Construction, Inc., for construction services at Cle Elum Dam." Project Manager Richard Visser said, "The fish passage project is a vital partnership with the Yakama Nation and the State of Washington to restore ecological connectivity and natural production of salmon. The construction of a helix, gate, and intake will provide a safe downstream passage from the reservoir to the Cle Elum River for juvenile salmon, including sockeye."

Fish And Wildlife Service

Republicans Seek Widespread Changes To The Endangered Species Act.

The [AP](#) (9/26) reports, "Galvanized by court rulings protecting grizzly bears and gray wolves, congressional Republicans on Wednesday launched a push for sweeping changes to the Endangered Species Act despite strong objections from Democrats and wildlife advocates who called the effort a 'wildlife extinction package.'" Senate Environment and Public Works Committee Chairman John Barrasso (R-WY) "said he preferred broad changes to the act rather than legislation on individual species." However, "whether the GOP proposals ultimately succeed could hinge on who controls Congress next year." Barrasso "said he did not expect the Senate to act on pending proposals to overhaul the act until after the November midterm election."

State Congressman Applauds Vote To Remove Federal Protections For Wolves. [KCPQ-TV](#) Seattle (9/26, Cihon) reports that Congress is "considering removing gray wolves from the federal list of endangered and threatened species, potentially opening them up to more hunting outside of Washington state." House Bill 6784, or the "Manage Our Wolves Act," passed out of the House Committee on Natural Resources on Wednesday. Rep. Dan Newhouse (R-WA) "praised the move, saying delisting wolves would give management back to the states."

The SCOTUS And The Frog.

[Politico](#) (9/26, Tamborrino) reports that the Supreme Court's "October term begins with some high-profile environmental cases that weigh the federal government's powers to protect endangered species and regulate mining...and the first one on the docket is on the endangered dusky gopher frog." According to the article, "the case, Weyerhaeuser Company v. Fish and Wildlife Service, digs into the reach of the controversial Endangered Species Act as it pertains to the 2012 designation of critical habitat for the endangered frog around one pond in Mississippi."

Also reporting is [Vice](#) (9/26, Fidel, Sterbenz).

Airport In A Wildlife Refuge? State-backed Plan Shocks Conservationists, Scientists.

The [New Orleans Times-Picayune](#) (9/26, Baurick) reports that Louisiana leaders "hope to do what conservationists say is unthinkable – pave over part of Elmer's Island Wildlife Refuge to build a commercial airport servicing small jets and private planes." According to the article, "an airport lease agreement proposing two runways, an air traffic control tower, terminal and hangars was quietly approved by the state Department of Wildlife and Fisheries last month." The agreement shocked "many wildlife scientists familiar with the refuge, who worry the airport would harm critically important bird habitat on a coastline that's rapidly disappearing under the encroaching sea."

Anglers Barred From Popular Fishing Spot After Gators Get Aggressive.

The [Palm Beach \(FL\) Post](#) (9/26) reports that "a popular fishing spot in the Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge will be temporarily off limits to anglers after alligators

accustomed to getting free meals from humans have become increasingly aggressive." Veronica Kelly, a spokeswoman for the refuge, "said several alligators have been removed and euthanized after approaching people in an area where fisherman have been seen feeding them."

Onalaska Boat Landing Is Closed For Construction.

[WKBT-TV](#) La Crosse, WI (9/26, Brazil) reports that "the Fred Funk Boat Landing is currently closed for repairs and upgrades." According to the article, "an ADA accessible fishing platform will also be installed with funds provided by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Solar lighting poles will be added to improve visibility."

Wildlife Refuge Canoe Trips Offer Up Close Look At Big Branch Marsh.

The [New Orleans Advocate](#) (9/26) reports that "free guided public canoe tours of Bayou Lacombe at Big Branch Marsh National Wildlife Refuge are being offered several Saturdays in the coming months." The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is providing canoes and paddle equipment. According to the article, "tours will be Oct. 20, Nov. 3 and 17, and Dec. 1."

Bow Hunter Kills Attacking Grizzly On Blackfeet Reservation.

The [AP](#) (9/26) reports that "a bow hunter who killed a moose on the Blackfeet Indian Reservation reported shooting and killing a grizzly bear that attacked him." Blackfeet Fish and Wildlife Director Dona Rutherford "says the man killed the moose on Monday and was preparing to move the animal when he was attacked by the bear." The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is "investigating because grizzly bears are listed as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act."

National Park Service

The National Park Service Grants Wheat Street Baptist Church Half A Million Dollars.

The [Atlanta Daily World](#) (9/26, Spearman) reports that the National Park Service Historic Preservation Fund "bestowed a \$500,000 dollar financial blessing on Wheat Street Baptist Church, located in heart of the internationally renowned Auburn Avenue historic district." The award is "part of the 2018 \$12.6 million grant from the U.S. Department of Interior and the National Park Service." Wheat Street Baptist Church was "included among 51 projects in 24 states that preserve sites and highlight stories related to the African American struggle for equality in the 20th century."

Bismarck Aims To Become State's Eighth CLG.

The [Bismarck \(ND\) Tribune](#) (9/26, McCormack) reports that "Bismarck is taking steps to become a Certified Local Government." The Bismarck City Commission on Tuesday "authorized staff to draft a CLG ordinance to send to the state historical society for comment and review, prior to consideration by the city commission." The National Park Service and "the state historical society must both give the city their blessing before a Historic Preservation Commission, consisting of local residents who specialize in history, architecture and anthropology, is appointed."

New River Gorge Park Plan Gains Support.

The [Williamson \(WV\) Daily News](#) (9/26, Steelhammer) reports that "a plan to make New River Gorge National River a full-fledged national park is gaining momentum in communities surrounding the 72,808-acre tract of canyons, cliffs, whitewater rapids and wooded plateaus." According to the article, "in recent weeks, resolutions calling for changing the New River Gorge's designation from national river to national park – while not changing the way it currently operates – have been approved by city and county governments, tourism agencies and development boards along the 53-mile-long stretch

of parkland."

Duffy Sponsors Resolution To Honor Rib Mountain, Paul Bunyan.

The [Wausau \(WI\) Daily Herald](#) (9/26, BeMiller) reports that "the U.S. House of Representatives passed a resolution Tuesday urging the Department of the Interior to add Rib Mountain to the National Register of Historic Places." The measure, sponsored by Rep. Sean Duffy (R-WI), "points to legend that says Rib Mountain was [Paul] Bunyan's final resting place." Duffy said in a statement, "Paul Bunyan was a larger than life figure who still embodies the frontier spirit and an important part of Wisconsin's history."

Huffman Bill Assuring 20-year Leases For Point Reyes Ranchers Clears House.

The [Santa Rosa \(CA\) Press Democrat](#) (9/26, Kovner) reports that "cattle ranchers would be assured a lengthy future in Point Reyes National Seashore under a bill written by Rep. Jared Huffman that was unanimously approved by the House of Representatives, with environmental groups divided over the issue." The bill would "require the Secretary of Interior to issue 20-year permits to the long-standing family-operated beef and dairy ranches in the scenic Marin County seashore managed by the National Park Service." The bill also "orders the government agency to manage the seashore's famed tule elk herd to keep the grazing animals separate from the ranches and dairies."

Also reporting is the [Marin \(CA\) Independent Journal](#) (9/26, Houston).

Cape Cod National Seashore To Get \$9.7M In Upgrades.

The [Cape Cod \(MA\) Times](#) (9/26, Bragg) reports that "the rollout this fall of \$9.7 million in capital projects will help Cape Cod National Seashore make a dent in its deferred maintenance, Seashore Superintendent Brian Carlstrom said." According to Provincetown Select Board Chairwoman Louise Venden, "the upgrades to land and structures also will help protect public property from rising sea levels and the increasing number of storms."

Sumner High School Building Plan Awaits Park Service Approval.

. The [Ellsworth \(ME\) American](#) (9/26, Hauptman) reports that "the next step in construction of a new building for Sumner Memorial High School is approval from the National Park Service to use land that it oversees." Regional School Unit 24 (RSU 24) Superintendent Mike Eastman said, "A big milestone in this project is the site application. The site we chose was purchased with National Park Service money. We need permission from them to build on it, and that proposal is still pending approval." According to the article, "a section of where the new building will be constructed, just beyond the school's baseball field, was previously purchased with grant money from the National Park Service as part of a program to build parks and athletic fields for local communities."

Private Landowner Selling Land Around Zion's Narrow.

The [AP](#) (9/26) reports that "Zion National Park visitors are no longer allowed to experience a popular, 16-mile (26-kilometer), one-way hike through the Virgin River Narrows." Park officials "began discontinuing permits for the hike from north to south (or top to down) Tuesday after a private landowner posted 'no trespassing' signs in the popular canyon." According to the article, "the signs, which rangers first saw over the weekend, invite buyers to purchase over 1 mile of the Zion Narrow."

Also reporting are [KSL-TV Salt Lake City](#) Salt Lake City (9/26, Kessler) and [KUTV-TV Salt Lake City](#) Salt Lake City (9/25, Curtis).

Olympic Park's Mountain Goats Are On The Move – 98 Relocated.

The [Seattle Post-Intelligencer](#) (9/26, Connelly) reports that "a total of 98 mountain goats have been captured in the Olympic National Parks – where they are non-native and not wanted – and moved to new homes in the North Cascades, in an operation completed for the year and to be resumed in 2019." The National Park Service is "seeking to relocate as many of Olympic Park's 725 goats as possible, and will use 'lethal' removal for those that cannot be captured." In all, "115 goats were removed from the 922,000-acre national

park, which this year marked its 80th anniversary since created under President Franklin D. Roosevelt."

Also reporting are [Courthouse News](#) (9/26, Brown) and [KOMO-TV](#) Seattle (9/26).

National Park Service Plan Would Protect Georgia Species At Risk.

The [Atlanta Journal-Constitution](#) (9/26, Prabhu) reports that the National Park Service is seeking public comments "on its plans to control predators that might be threatening the livelihood of rare coastal animals in the Southeast." The park service is "planning to establish a set of policies for park employees to protect 'coastal species of concern' when they are targeted by a predatory animal." The NPS is accepting comments through Oct. 26.

Fungus Threatens Bats At New Mexico Monument.

[KOB-TV](#) Albuquerque, NM (9/26, Camacho) reports that park rangers at El Malpais National Monument on Wednesday confirmed the fungus that causes White Nose Syndrome has arrived. According to the article, "while no bats at the park have died yet, park rangers are worried about their future."

At Alcatraz Alumni Reunion, Former Convicts Are Rockstars.

[KALW-FM](#) San Francisco (9/26, McAvoy, McDede) reports that "shortly after Alcatraz prison shut down in 1963, the people who lived and worked on the island began hosting annual get-togethers." When the National Park Service "invited the 'alumni' to host the reunions on the island, convicts were invited, too." However, "this year, as surviving alumni dwindle, the tradition is coming to an end."

Visitor Centers At Spalding And Big Hole To Adjust Operational Days.

[Clearwater \(ID\) Tribune](#) (9/26) reports that the National Park Service seeks public comments "on proposed adjustments to the days of operation at the visitor centers in Spalding, Idaho and at Big Hole National Battlefield in Montana."

National Park Volunteers Receive Regional Recognition.

. The [Waynesville \(NC\) Smoky Mountain News](#) (9/26, Kays) reports that "Great Smoky Mountains National Park volunteers received regional recognition through the George and Helen Hartzog Awards Program for Outstanding Volunteers this summer." Charlie Chmielewski "received the National Park Service Southeast Region Enduring Service Award for his dedicated volunteer service to the park's Fisheries Division since 1993." Also, "a cadre of volunteers known as the Laurel Falls Rovers received the NPS Southeast Region Outstanding Volunteer Group Award for their work to help more than 300,000 park visitors enjoy a safe and informed experience on the 3-mile Laurel Falls Trail, which is a top destination due to views of its 80-foot cascade."

Park-goers Lend A Hand To Public Lands.

The [Jackson Hole \(WY\) News & Guide](#) (9/26, Cottier) reports last Saturday, on National Public Lands Day, "a small band of outdoors lovers helped with renovation projects in Grand Teton National Park." Angela Timby, "the park's trails volunteer coordinator, organized the event." She said, "With the increase in visitation and the limits on our resources, it's extremely valuable to have support from volunteers."

Man Fired Shotgun At Wolves Chasing His Dogs In Yellowstone National Park, Report Says.

The [Helena \(MT\) Independent Record](#) (9/26) reports that "Yellowstone National Park rangers are seeking information after a Saturday report that a man had fired a shotgun at wolves that were chasing his dog east of Sedge Bay, along the East Entrance road." According to a release, "rangers who responded to the scene found no evidence of injured wolves but they did find shotgun shells."

US Geological Survey

Climate Change Not Main Driver Of Amphibian Decline.

[Laboratory Equipment](#) (9/26) reports that "while a warming climate in recent decades may be a factor in the waning of some local populations of frogs, toads, newts and salamanders, it cannot explain the overall steep decline of amphibians, according to researchers." David Miller, lead researcher and associate professor of wildlife population ecology in Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences, said that "after analyzing many years of data for 81 North American amphibian species including more than 500,000 observations collected at more than 5,000 sites in 86 study areas by a broad coalition of herpetologists, it is clear a warming climate is not the primary driver in their disappearance." Erin Muths, a scientist at the U.S. Geological Survey and a co-lead on the project, "believes that the cause of declines comes down to a suite of local factors." She said, "It depends on the location whether habitat loss, disease, contaminants, climate, or a combination of these local factors is the culprit. Amphibians are challenged by a range of stressors that may be unique to location but in combination are leading to wide-range declines."

Opinion Pieces

Legislative Package By The Western Caucus Needed To Bring Improvements To Endangered Species Act.

For the "Congress" blog of [The Hill](#) (9/26), Reps. Andy Biggs (R-AZ) and Paul Gosar (R-AZ) write that "the Congressional Western Caucus recently introduced a series of bills to modernize the Endangered Species Act of 1973(ESA)." They note that "one part of this package includes our bill, the LIST Act of 2018, which makes a number of improvements to bring the ESA into the 21st century." The lawmakers argue that "the Western Caucus ESA modernization package is long overdue and will help species that are actually threatened or endangered to increase in population while also ensuring listing and delisting decisions are made as a result of the best available science – not as a result of special-interest litigation or agendas."

Additional Reading.

- *KEN PERROTTE: A Century Later, Roosevelt's Vision Still Inspires Awe.* [Fredericksburg \(VA\) Free Lance-Star.](#) (9/26, Perrotte)
- *Minnesotans: Conservation Fund Protects Our Vital Public Lands And Needs Your Support.* [MinnPost \(MN\).](#) (9/26, Hansen)
- *Guest Column/Renewing Land & Water Conservation Fund Wise Investment.* [Steubenville \(OH\) Herald Star.](#) (9/26, MINNEY, WHEATLEY)
- *Save Federal Conservation Fund.* [Charleston \(SC\) Post and Courier.](#) (9/26)
- *Protect Cleveland-area Parks And Natural Areas Via The Land And Water Conservation Fund: Bill Stanley (Opinion).* [Cleveland Plain Dealer.](#) (9/26, Stanley)
- *Urge Congress To Reauthorize Land And Water Conservation Fund: Simmons.* [Reno \(NV\) Gazette-Journal.](#) (9/25, Simmons)
- *The Grand Canyon Needs To Be Saved By Every Generation.* [New Yorker.](#) (9/26, Paumgarten)

Top National News

Trump Says China Trying To Interfere In Midterms.

As he chaired the UN Security Council Wednesday, President Trump accused China of trying to interfere in the midterm elections because it opposes his trade policies. Media coverage of Trump's claim is relatively heavy, but it is largely negative, with most reports pointing out that he offered no evidence to support it.

The [CBS Evening News](#) (9/26, story 7, 0:10, Glor) reported Trump “accused China of wanting him to lose the next election” and said in his news conference that “he may no longer be friends with Chinese President Xi Jinping.” The [AP](#) (9/26, Miller, Lemire) says Trump “made his accusation against the backdrop of the special counsel’s investigation into Russian interference in the last election to help him and amid concerns that this November’s elections also could be vulnerable.” However, the White House “provided scant evidence of anything akin to the level of Russia’s meddling in the 2016 presidential election.” Asked what evidence he had, Trump said there was “plenty” but “didn’t provide details.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/26, Salama, Volz) also points out that the President provided no details or evidence to support his accusation. Andrea Mitchell reported on [NBC Nightly News](#) (9/26, story 6, 1:45, Holt) that the timing of the accusation “appears tied to his trade war with China, with the US slapping tariffs on \$200 billion of Chinese exports this week.”

The [Daily Caller](#) (9/26, Enjeti) reports, “This is not the first time Trump has accused China of attempting to meddle in the election.” Similarly, the [New York Times](#) (9/26, Landler) reports that Trump “has accused the Chinese of election meddling before, but never so bluntly or in such a high-profile international setting.”

[Reuters](#) (9/26, Bayoumy, Nichols) quotes Trump as saying, “China has been attempting to interfere in our upcoming 2018 election, coming up in November. Against my administration.” Reuters adds that he “made no reference to suspected Russian meddling in the 2016 U.S. election and provided no evidence for his allegation about China.” [USA Today](#) (9/26, Shesgreen, Fritze) also says Trump “did not offer any specific evidence of China’s meddling,” but adds that in a tweet later Wednesday, “he highlighted a four-page advertorial that ran Sunday in the Des Moines (Iowa) Register newspaper.” Trump [tweeted](#), “China is actually placing propaganda ads in the Des Moines Register and other papers, made to look like news. That’s because we are beating them on Trade, opening markets, and the farmers will make a fortune when this is over!” The [New York Post](#) (9/26, Moore) also says Trump “followed up on his claim” with the tweet highlighting the Chinese ads.

To [Politico](#) (9/26, Shamon), Trump’s comment was “a striking assertion” that “echoed recent remarks by White House national security adviser John Bolton, who pointed the finger at China without giving concrete evidence of Beijing’s interference with U.S. elections.” [Axios](#) (9/26, Vavra) reports that Bolton “has previously said the government is concerned about Chinese interference in U.S. elections, but the administration has not yet provided specific evidence of direct tampering or misinformation campaigns of the sort Russia pursued in 2016.”

The [Washington Times](#) (9/26, Boyer, Taylor) reports that Trump later indicated “that he was referring in part to China’s retaliatory tariffs against U.S. farm products, as opposed to the type of cyber-hacking that Russia conducted in the 2016 U.S. elections.” Trump told reporters, “You have statements made [by the Chinese] that they were going to hit our farmers, those are my voters. … I love the farmers, I’m taking care of the farmers. I’m opening up markets like nobody’s ever opened markets before.”

The [Washington Post](#) (9/26, Nakashima) says that “in a hastily-arranged press call on ‘Chinese interference,’ a senior administration official offered no examples of activity specifically constituting interference in the 2018 election,” but said that China has hurt “farmers and workers in states and districts that voted for the president because he stood up to the ways China has taken advantage of our country economically.” While [CQ Roll Call](#) (9/26, Bennett) says the official “provided scant examples of a Russia-style disinformation warfare campaign,” the [Washington Examiner](#) (9/26, Nelson) says “the senior official offered a broad critique of China, going beyond allegations of election-related interference.” The official “said China was responsible for ‘cyberbullying’ American scholars” and attempting to “stifle free speech on U.S. college campuses.” In addition, “he said China wrongfully penalizes critics by withholding travel visas.”

According to [Bloomberg News](#) (9/26) US national security officials “are on high alert for attempted election interference by a foreign adversary,” but “Russia has been seen as a more likely threat than China.” Bloomberg says that on September 12, DNI Coats said

China is “one of several countries with ‘capabilities; to interfere in the elections,’” but added, “it’s more than Russia here that we’re looking at,” and “he didn’t allege that Beijing had taken any action.”

Mitchell also said on [NBC Nightly News](#) (9/26, story 6, 1:45, Holt) that Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, who was present for Trump’s remarks, is “strongly denying” the President’s accusations. [Fox News’ Special Report](#) (9/26) showed Wang saying, “We did not and will not interfere in any country’s domestic affairs. We refuse to accept any unwarranted accusations against China.”

Regarding Trump’s assertion, Roll Call’s Niels Lesniewski [tweeted](#), “Um, so. It is almost 10 p.m., so safe to say, I reached out to the intel community about this when @realDonaldTrump said it. Got nothing back.”

US B-52s Flew Over South China Sea Last Week. [Reuters](#) (9/26, Ali) reports that US B-52 bombers flew “in the vicinity of the South China Sea this week” in “a move that is likely to cause anger in Beijing amid heightened tensions between the two countries.” According to Reuters, “Such flights are common, but usually upset Beijing. In June, China’s foreign ministry said no military ship or aircraft could scare China away from its resolve to protect its territory after two U.S. Air Force B-52 bombers flew near disputed islands in the South China Sea.”

WSJournal Details China’s Systematic Extraction Of US Firms’ Technologies. Citing interviews with corporate and government officials in the US and China and a review of regulatory and other documents, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/26, A1, Wei, Davis) reports that China’s removal of technology from US companies has become systematic.

Ip: Some See Developing Economic Cold War Between US, China. Greg Ip writes in the [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/26) that some see an economic cold war developing between the US and China. Ip adds that some believe that the US goal is not to find a negotiated solution with China but two permanently disengage the two nations’ economies.

Trump Doubles Down: Allegations Against Kavanaugh “A Big, Fat Con Job.”

President Trump on Wednesday addressed the allegations against Judge Kavanaugh during an afternoon press conference. In his remarks, the President once again accused Senate Democrats of being behind the spate of accusations. [NBC Nightly News](#) (9/26, lead story, 3:35, Alexander) showed Trump saying, “They know it’s a big, fat con job, and they go into a room, and I guarantee you, they laugh like hell. ... You have this other con artist, [Michael] Avenatti, come out with another beauty today. These are false accusations.” The [CBS Evening News](#) (9/26, lead story, 5:00, Glor) noted Trump also said, “What they’ve done to this family, what they’ve done to these children, these beautiful children of his, and what they’ve done to his wife. And they know it’s a big, fat con job, so it wouldn’t have mattered if the FBI came back with the cleanest score, and you understand that very well,” that “if they would have come back with the most perfect, we found everything, and he’s perfectly innocent of everything, it wouldn’t have made a difference. You wouldn’t have gotten one vote.”

Another [NBC Nightly News](#) (9/26, story 4, 1:50, Holt) segment showed Trump being asked whether all Kavanaugh accusers are liars. Said the President, “I can’t tell you. I have to watch tomorrow. I just heard about one a little while ago. I can tell you her lawyer is a low life, okay? I can’t tell you whether or not they are liars until I hear them. I’ll be watching. Believe it or not, I’m going to see what is said. It’s possible that they will be convincing. Now, with all of that being said,” Kavanaugh “has been for many years one of the most respected people in Washington. Every single person knows him, a lot of people know him well, and those people don’t believe what’s going on. I can always be convinced. I have to hear it.”

[ABC World News Tonight](#) (9/26, lead story, 5:05, Karl) showed Trump saying, “People are going to have to make a decision. Thirty-six years, there’s no charge. All of a sudden, the hearings are over and the rumors start coming out. The senators are very capable people, they’re very good people. I know many of them, they’re friends of mine. These are very talented, very good people. They’re going to have to believe what they believe.”

The [New York Times](#) (9/26, Shear) points out that while he said the allegations against Kavanaugh "are all false," Trump also told reporters "he 'can always be convinced' after watching the testimony of Dr. Christine Blasey Ford." The Times goes on to call Trump's press conference "rambling and combative."

Jake Tapper said of Trump's remarks on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (9/26), "I think he did himself no favors when it came to the idea of supporting Kavanaugh. He did, a few times during this press conference, say things to try to suggest that he had an open mind about it, he wants to hear, he could be persuaded. But I think overwhelmingly the idea was this is a con job, these women are lying, their accusations are false, I don't believe it. ... He painted this picture of sexual assault as if it is just a world full of women waiting to make false accusations against men and none of them are accurate, none of them are true."

Jeff Zeleny said on [CNN's The Lead](#) (9/26). "The President is taking the confirmation battle to the court of public opinion. He is growing increasingly dissatisfied with how Kavanaugh has defended himself, CNN has learned, telling one official the Judge seemed wooden and not sufficiently aggressive in his Fox News interview this week."

CNBC's Christina Wilkie [tweeted](#), "All signs today point to Trump's having abandoned Kavanaugh. He's speaking about Kavanaugh in the past tense, calling them 'very serious charges,' and musing about choosing another Supreme Court nominee." Politico's Annie Karni [tweeted](#), "It was a typical Trumpian move, leaving his final position unclear – a frustrating exercise for Team Kavanaugh and Senate Republicans akin to nailing Jell-O to a wall."

Trump Says If He Nominated George Washington, Democrats Would Be Against Him. [Politico](#) (9/26, Shamon) notes that during his press conference, the President also said, "Look, if we brought George Washington here and we said, 'We have George Washington,' the Democrats would vote against him." Trump went on to quip, "He may have had some – I think – accusations made. Didn't he have a couple of things in his past? George Washington would be voted against 100 percent by [Senate Minority Leader] Schumer and the con artists. One hundred percent. One hundred percent. So it really doesn't matter from their standpoint."

Trump: GOP Senators "Could Not Be More Respectful" Of Ford. [Politico](#) (9/26, Morin) reports that "Trump on Wednesday praised the way Senate Republicans have handled sexual assault allegations against...Kavanaugh, saying GOP lawmakers 'could not be more respectful' to accuser Christine Blasey Ford." Said Trump, "I think the Senate, the Republicans could not be nicer in the way they're handling this. ... They could have pushed it through 2 1/2 weeks ago and you wouldn't be talking about it right now, which is frankly what I would have preferred, but they didn't do that." [CQ Roll Call](#) (9/26, Bennett) notes Trump also said, "I think I might have pushed it ahead a lot faster."

To [Breitbart](#) (9/26, Spiering), meanwhile, "Trump said Wednesday that Republicans on the Senate Judiciary Committee should have forced a vote to confirm...Kavanaugh sooner."

Trump Says Dealing With Past "False Charges" Against Him Gives Him Unique Perspective On Kavanaugh Saga. The [CBS Evening News](#) (9/26, lead story, 5:00, Glor) noted Trump asked how the past allegations of sexual impropriety affect his reaction to the Kavanaugh charges, the President said, "Well, it does impact my opinion, you know why? Because I've had a lot of false charges made against me. I'm a very famous person, unfortunately. I've been a famous person for a long time. But I've had a lot of false charges made against me. Really false charges. I know friends that have false charges. People want fame. They want money. They want whatever. So when I see it, I view it differently than somebody sitting home watching television where they say, oh, judge Kavanaugh this or that. It's happened to me many times."

ABC's Vega: Trump's Comment On Presumption Of Innocence An "Astounding Moment." [ABC World News Tonight](#) (9/26, lead story, 5:05, Karl) reported "the President was also asked what message he's sending to young men across this country by defending judge Kavanaugh so strongly, even before he hears from Dr. Ford." ABC's

Cecilia Vega added, "This is the message to young men President Trump is sending. Quote: 'When you are guilty until proven innocent, it's not supposed to be that way.' He just called this a dangerous period in our country, a powerful cultural moment. I've got to tell you...this was an astounding moment in covering this presidency. More than an hour and 20 minutes, more than a dozen different topics covered. This was supposed to be...Trump making his case for his nominee ahead of tomorrow's hearing. The question" is: "Did he help or did he hurt him?"

[Breitbart](#) (9/26, Spiering) notes "Trump said that he grew up hearing the phrase 'innocent until proven guilty,' suggesting that it was the proper application of justice in America," and "said that the allegations of sexual misconduct against Kavanaugh set a different standard by his enemies because he was nominated to the Supreme Court." Said Trump, "I think that's a very very dangerous standard for our country."

According to a [Washington Post](#) (9/26, Rucker, Costa, Dawsey, Parker) analysis, however, "Trump's expansive argument cast doubt on the credibility not only of the three women who have accused Kavanaugh of sexual assault, but also on scores of other women who have claimed sexual abuse by prominent men, including the president himself." With "his defiant rush to rescue Kavanaugh's nomination, Trump effectively sought to draw a line in the sand against the growing number of allegations that have felled male authority figures in politics, the media and business."

Rep. Pramila Jayapal (D-WA) [tweeted](#), "The most truthful thing Trump has ever said: Trump laments #MeToo as 'very dangerous' for powerful men". Washington Post conservative blogger Jennifer Rubin [tweeted](#), "Defending Kavanaugh, Trump laments #MeToo as 'very dangerous' for powerful men... can't get anything by that guy. Yes, the age of unchallenged rich guy privilege is drawing to an end".

Fed Touts Strong Economy, Signals Intent To Continue Raising Rates Into 2020.

The [AP](#) (9/26, Crutsinger) reports that the Federal Reserve "signaled its confidence Wednesday in the US economy by raising a key interest rate for a third time this year, forecasting another rate hike before year's end and predicting that it will continue to tighten credit into 2020 to manage growth and inflation." In a statement "after its latest policy meeting, the Fed dropped phrasing it had long used that characterized its policy as 'accommodative' – that is, favoring low rates." According to the AP, the Fed "had used variations of that pledge in the seven years that it kept its key rate at a record low near zero and over the past nearly three years in which it's gradually tightened credit."

[Reuters](#) (9/26, Schneider, Lange) reports that Fed Chair Jerome Powell "said the removal of the wording, which had been a staple of the central bank's guidance for financial markets and households for much of the past decade, did not signal a policy outlook change. 'Instead, it is a sign that policy is proceeding in line with our expectations,'" said Powell.

Under the headline "Fed Raises Rates Again, Citing 'Particularly Bright' Economic Moment," the [New York Times](#) (9/26, Appelbaum) reports that the Fed "repeatedly described economic conditions as 'strong' in a statement following a two-day meeting of its Federal Open Market Committee. ... 'Economic activity has been rising at a strong rate,' the statement said, adding that job growth, and the growth of household spending and business investment, were also robust." Jim Tankersley of the New York Times [tweeted](#), "Notably, Fed officials still expect fiscal stimulus to fade / growth to slow in 2020 and beyond. No sign yet that they believe in sustained supply side effects from tax cuts."

[Politico](#) (9/26, Guida) says the Fed is "projecting that US economic growth will exceed 3 percent this year in a vindication of President Donald Trump," and [USA Today](#) (9/26, Davidson) that "the economy has been cruising lately and so the Fed is tapping on the brakes once again" while "upgrading its economic outlook." Said Powell, "Our economy is strong, growth is running at a healthy clip, unemployment is low. ... This is a good moment for the US economy." [Axios](#) (9/26, Brown) runs a similar story under the headline "Fed Hikes Interest Rates Amid Booming Economy," while the [Los Angeles Times](#) (9/26, Puzzanghera), [Bloomberg News](#) (9/26, Condon, Torres), [Breitbart](#) (9/26,

Carney) and [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/26, Timiraos), among other news outlets, also report the story.

The [Washington Post](#) (9/26, Long) also reports that the Fed "stressed repeatedly that the US economy is "strong" across the board and no longer needs the heavy stimulus the central bank put into place during the Great Recession." The Post notes that the decision "increases the federal funds rate from a range of 1.75 percent to 2 percent to a range of 2 percent to 2.25 percent, the highest level in a decade."

In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/26) notes that the Fed is growing more optimistic about GDP growth – hiking their estimates for the fourth month in a row.

Media Analyses: Trump Reveled In “Freewheeling” News Conference.

Several news outlets run colorful analyses of what the [AP](#) (9/26) calls President Trump's "freewheeling" Wednesday news conference. The AP says Trump "dismissed as 'fake news' reports that he was laughed at during his speech to the U.N. General Assembly, said he wanted Rod Rosenstein to remain in his Justice Department job, said he rejected a one-on-one meeting with the Canadian prime minister, and accused China of interfering in the 2018 midterm election."

The [New York Times](#) (9/26, Grynbaum) reports that the President "doubted the character of George Washington ('Didn't he have a couple things in his past?'), urged a wire-service reporter to ask a tough question ('Give it to me, Reuters!') and referred to a Kurdish correspondent as 'Mr. Kurd.'" The Times writes that while Trump "denounces news organizations as 'the enemy of the people,'" he "made clear that he is never more comfortable, never more engaged, than when he is sparring with the news media that he loves to say he hates. ... 'I could be doing this all day long,' Mr. Trump said happily, after an hour of challenging, cajoling, teasing and shouting down the reporters in the room." The [Washington Post](#) (9/26, Parker) says that "an animated Trump delivered bluster, falsehoods, insults, breaking news and, as he quipped at one point, more than a hint of his trademark "braggadocios." But what was perhaps most remarkable was just how transparent and revealing Trump continues to be."

Editorial Wrap-Up

New York Times.

"We Know How To Conquer Tuberculosis." The [New York Times](#) (9/26) editorializes that the World Health Organization's "newest treatment guidelines now include a strong recommendation that all people living in households where one person has active tuberculosis receive preventive treatment. If countries implement that guideline, and if doctors abide by it, some 30 million more people should have access to preventive care in the next five years." If that happens, the Times says, "a disease that has plagued the world's most vulnerable people for far too long could finally be wiped out."

"Hit Pause On Brett Kavanaugh." A [New York Times](#) (9/26) editorial says that with a third accuser of Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh stepping forward, "this destructive stampede of a confirmation, driven so far by partisan calculation, needs to yield at last to common sense: Let qualified investigators – the F.B.I. – do their job."

Washington Post.

"The Senate Can't Handle This. The FBI Can." The [Washington Post](#) (9/26) argues in an editorial Thursday's hearing of the Senate Judiciary Committee "would not be a fair substitute for an FBI investigation into [Supreme Court nominee Brett] Kavanaugh's behavior with women during high school and college," and the latest accusation from Julie Swetnick "only enhances the case for pausing while professionals gather what facts exist."

"Poland Suggested Naming A Fort After Trump. Will That Really Improve Its Relations With The United States?" In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (9/26) says Polish President Andrzej Duda, lobbying for the establishment of a permanent US military base in Poland, said it would be named for President Trump. Says the Post, "Promising to call

a base Fort Trump, whether in jest or not, may have won the Polish government some sympathetic words from the president at the United Nations. Whether it will serve the country's interests, and US-Polish relations, in the longer run is very much open to question."

"A 74-Year-Old Was Left In A Burned Down Building For Five Days. How?" The [Washington Post](#) (9/26) editorializes that last Wednesday morning, "hours after fire broke out at a senior housing complex in Southeast Washington, a member of the company that manages the property delivered the news that all the elderly residents had been accounted for," but "we now know that was not correct." Raymond Holton, 74, "languished alone for five days in his apartment in the fire-damaged building before he was discovered by chance." The Post adds, "it is clear there were errors – if not sheer incompetence – in the actions of those, public and private, charged with safeguarding these elderly and vulnerable people," and "there were also reports that smoke detectors and sprinklers failed to fully operate, which raises its own set of troubling questions about how the complex was managed, how the city provided oversight and whether there is cause to be concerned about other properties geared toward seniors."

Wall Street Journal.

"Democrats Endorse Avenatti." In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/26) calls the latest allegations against Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh particularly hard to believe, arguing that type of routine, mass rapes would have surely come to the attention of the authorities at some point over the last decades. Moreover, by her own admission, Kavanaugh's accuser would have continued to attend the parties after being raped. Yet, says the Journal, within hours of the allegations becoming public every Democratic member of the Senate Judiciary Committee used them to ask that Kavanaugh withdraw his nomination – this lending them credence.

"The Fed Gets Optimistic." In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/26) notes that the Fed is growing more optimistic about GDP growth – hiking their estimates for the fourth month in a row.

"Silicon Valley's Supreme Salvation." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/26) says in an editorial that tech firms should hope for the confirmation of Brett Kavanaugh, creating a conservative majority on the Supreme Court. The Journal cites an attempted class-action suit against Uber by drivers who sought to be treated as regular employees, writing that the effort failed only because a conservative three-judge panel of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals drew the case. Conservative judges, the Journal argues, will protect tech firms from frivolous cases.

Big Picture

Headlines From Today's Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

[New Claims Add Fuel To Showdown Over Nominee Kavanaugh](#)
[Trump Accuses China Of Trying To Interfere In US Elections](#)
[How China Systematically Pries Technology From US Companies](#)
[Fed Raises Interest Rates, Signals One More Increase This Year](#)

New York Times:

[New Evidence, New Accuser And New Doubts Threaten Kavanaugh On Eve Of Hearing](#)
[A Hearing's Test: Blasey Must Seem Credible. Kavanaugh Must Defend But Not Attack.](#)
[At the Center Of The Kavanaugh Accusations: Heavy Drinking](#)
[Utilities Helped Puerto Rico Fix Its Power Grid. Now They Face Hefty Tax Bills.](#)
[Trump Accuses China Of Interfering In Midterm Elections](#)
[In Britain, Even Children Are Feeling The Effects Of Austerity](#)

Washington Post:

[Defending Kavanaugh, Trump Laments #MeToo As "Very Dangerous" For Powerful Men](#)
[President: China Is "Trying To Meddle"](#)
[Trump Forcefully Dismisses Sexual Misconduct Allegations Against Kavanaugh](#)
[Fair-Lending Official Once Cast Doubt On Hate Crimes](#)
[Blurring Foreign-Domestic Trade Line](#)
[3rd Accuser Has Spent Most Of Life Around Washington](#)

Financial Times:

[The Pessimist: A Comic Satire Of The Post-Crisis World](#)
[Federal Reserve Raises US Interest Rates Despite Trade War Concerns](#)
[Trump Accuses China Of Meddling In US Midterms](#)
[Daimler Chief Dieter Zetsche To Step Down After 12 Years](#)

Washington Times:

[Trump Campaigns To Save Kavanaugh: "This Is A Very Big Moment For Our Country"](#)
[Flake Chides Colleagues Over Kavanaugh Spectacle: "Doubt Is The Only Thing Of Which I'm Confident"](#)
[Keith Ellison Allies Walk Fine Line With Attacks On Kavanaugh](#)
[Slate Of Unsung Heroes At UN Gathering Returns "Swagger" To Mike Pompeo's State Department](#)
[Bryce Harper Cherishes Perhaps His Last Nationals Home Game: "This Is My City"](#)
[Elizabeth Warren Ignites Democratic Border War With Rhode Island Over Tribal Casino](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: Trump-Comments On Kavanaugh's Accusers; Kavanaugh-Third Accuser; Kavanaugh-Ford's Accusations; Kavanaugh-Hearing; Trump-Rod Rosenstein; Bill Cosby-Prison; North Carolina-Autistic Boy Missing; Weather Report; Yosemite-Man Climbs Wall Of Granite.

CBS: Trump-Comments On Kavanaugh's Accusers; Kavanaugh-Third Accuser; Kavanaugh-Hearing; Kavanaugh-Expert Comments; North Carolina-Autistic Boy Missing; Tennessee-Flooding; Trump-China Comments To UN; Colorado-Teens Steal From Marijuana Shop; Baltimore-Singer Provides Students With School Supplies.

NBC: Kavanaugh-Third Accuser; Kavanaugh-Accusations From Accusers; Kavanaugh-Republicans Concerned; Trump-Comments On Kavanaugh's Accusers; Trump-Rod Rosenstein; Trump-China Comments To UN; Weather Report; North Carolina-Autistic Boy Missing; CDC-Flu Shots; Cincinnati-Victim In Bank Shooting Talks About Responsible Gun Ownership; Gisele Bündchen's Struggle With Panic Attacks; Chicago-Aviation Program For African American Children.

Network TV At A Glance:

Trump-Comments On Kavanaugh's Accusers – 11 minutes, 55 seconds
Kavanaugh-Third Accuser – 8 minutes, 55 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: Kavanaugh-Fourth Accuser; Kavanaugh-Accuser's Polygraph Test; Trump-China Comments To UN; Ford-Tariff's Hurting Bottom Line; Feds-Raise Interest Rate; Wall Street; Congress-Budget.

CBS: Kavanaugh-Hearing; Trump-Rod Rosenstein; San Francisco-Transit System Closed Due To Cracked Beams; North Carolina-Autistic Boy Missing; Wall Street.

FOX: Kavanaugh-Hearing; Trump-Rod Rosenstein; Feds-Raise Interest Rate; California-Arraignment Postponed In Murder Cases.

NPR: Kavanaugh-New Accusers; Trump-UN-Differences With Security Council; Uber-Security Breach Settlement; Senate Measure To Protect Data Privacy.

Washington Schedule

Today's Events In Washington.

White House:

PRESIDENT TRUMP — meets with the United States Mission to the United Nations; participates in a roundtable with supporters; participates in a dinner with supporters. VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — No public schedule announced.

US Senate:

10:00 AM POSTPONED: Senate HELP Committee hearing on improving health care affordability – POSTPONED: Hearing on 'Reducing Health Care Costs: Improving Affordability Through Innovation', with testimony from Docs 4 Patient Care Foundation President Lee Gross; The Alliance President and CEO Cheryl DeMars; King County, WA, Executive Dow Constantine; and HCA Healthcare President of Clinical Services and Chief Medical Officer Dr Jonathan Perlin Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 430, Washington, DC

10:00 AM Senate Finance Committee nominations hearing – Nominations hearing considers Gordon Hartogensis to be Director of the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation; and Gail Ennis to be Social Security Administration Inspector General Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 215, Washington, DC

10:00 AM Senate Governmental Affairs subcommittee hearing on the effects of regulatory policy on the economy and business growth – Regulatory Affairs and Federal Management Subcommittee hearing on 'Examination of the Effects of Regulatory Policy on the Economy and Business Growth', with testimony from Howard Shelanski (Georgetown University Law Center); Salisbury University Franklin P. Perdue School of Business Department of Economics and Finance Professor of Economics Dustin Chambers; Small Business & Entrepreneurship Council President and CEO Karen Kerrigan; and Business Roundtable Senior Vice President and Counsel Maria Ghazal Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 342, Washington, DC

10:00 AM Senate Judiciary Committee hearing with SCOTUS nominee and woman accusing him of sexual assault – Nominations hearing considering Brett Kavanaugh to be U.S. Supreme Court Associate Justice continues, with testimonies from both Kavanaugh and psychology professor Christine Blasey Ford, who alleges that Kavanaugh sexually assaulted her during their time at high school, which he has denied. Arizona prosecutor Rachel Mitchell has been hired to question Kavanaugh and Ford * A hearing had been scheduled for 24 Sep but was delayed after Ford requested more time, and a vote on Kavanaugh's nomination is scheduled for tomorrow * A second allegation of sexual misconduct was made against Kavanaugh by Deborah Ramirez on 23 Sep, dating back to his time at Yale University, which Kavanaugh has also denied * In early July, President Donald Trump named U.S. Circuit Judge for the District of Columbia Circuit Kavanaugh as his nominee to fill the vacancy created by the retirement of SCOTUS Associate Justice Anthony Kennedy. Kavanaugh is President Trump's second nomination to the Court, after Neil Gorsuch Location: Hart Senate Office Building, Rm 226, Washington, DC

2:00 PM Closed Briefing: Intelligence Matters Location: Rm 219, Hart Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC

US House:

9:30 AM Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission hearing on Nicaragua – Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission hearing on 'The Evolving Human Rights Crisis in Nicaragua', on the human rights situation in Nicaragua in the context of ongoing socio-political unrest. Panelists include Inter-American Commission for Human Rights Assistant Executive Secretary for Monitoring, Promotion and Technical Cooperation Maria Claudia Pulido, and Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights Senior Human Rights Officer Guillermo Fernandez-Maldonado Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2200, Washington, DC

10:00 AM House Oversight and Government Reform markup – Full committee markup of H.R. 5381 (Royce), Government Risk and Taxpayer Exposure Reduction (GRATER) Act of 2018; H.R. 6787 (Hice), Reforming Government Act of 2018; H.R. __ (Mitchell), Antideficiency Reform and Enforcement Act of 2018; H.R. __ (Russell), to amend the Overtime Pay for Protective Services Act of 2016 to extend the Secret Service overtime

pay exemption through 2019, and for other purposes; H.R. ___ (Hurd), Federal CIO Authorization Act of 2018; H.R. 6777 (Palmer), Settlement Agreement Information Database Act of 2018; H.R. 3154 (Richmond), Inspector General Access Act of 2017; H.R. 5759 (Khanna), 21st Century Integrated Digital Experience Act; and H.R. 1272 (Rush), Cold Case Record Collections Act of 2017; H.R. 5791 (Coffman), and other pending legislation. Location: 2154 Rayburn House Office Building

10:00 AM House Transportation and Infrastructure markup – Full committee markup of General Services Administration Capital Investment and Leasing Program Resolutions; H.R. 5158, To direct the Secretary of Transportation to request nominations for and make determinations regarding roads to be designated under the national scenic byways program, and for other purposes.; and H.R. 6622 – To designate the Federal building located at 2110 First Street in Fort Myers, Florida, as the “George W. Whitehurst Federal Building”; and Other matters cleared for consideration. Location: 2167 Rayburn House Office Building

10:00 AM House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee markup hearing

10:00 AM House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform Business Meeting

10:00 AM GOP Rep. Jason Smith speaks at Capitol Hill discussion on repealing the ‘death tax’ – American Business Defense Foundation Capitol Hill panel discussion ‘The Federal Estate Tax, Family Business and Jobs 2018 ,and Beyond’ to discuss new data, authored by economist Prof. Antony Davis, on the ‘long-term effects of repealing the federal death tax’. Speakers including Republican Rep. Jason Smith Location: Heritage Foundation, 214 Massachusetts Avenue Northeast, Washington, DC

10:00 AM House Foreign Affairs Committee markup hearing – Markup hearing on ‘H. Res. 1006, Condemning the deteriorating situation in Venezuela and the regional humanitarian crisis it has caused, affirming support for the legitimate National Assembly and the Supreme Court, and urging further regional action in support of democracy in Venezuela’; ‘H. Res. 1052, Affirming United States-Australia cooperation on space research, exploration, and utilization’; ‘H.R. 1567, To promote economic partnership and cooperation between the United States and Mexico’; ‘H.R. 4591, To impose sanctions with respect to Iranian persons that threaten the peace or stability of Iraq or the Government of Iraq’; ‘H.R. 5273, To reduce global fragility and violence by improving the capacity of the United States to reduce and address the causes of violence, violent conflict, and fragility in pilot countries, and for other purposes’ Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2172, Washington, DC

10:00 AM House Homeland Security subcommittee hearing on threats to aviation security – Transportation and Protective Security Subcommittee hearing on ‘Insider Threats to Aviation Security: Airline and Airport Perspectives’, with testimony from Port of Seattle Aviation Security Director Wendy Reiter; Cargo Airline Association President Stephen Alterman; Airlines for America Security and Facilitation Vice President Lauren Beyer; and Air Line Pilots Association President Tim Canoll Location: U.S. Capitol Visitor Center, HVC-210, Washington, DC

10:00 AM House Judiciary subcommittee hearing on sports betting – Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations Subcommittee hearing on ‘Post-PASPA: An Examination of Sports Betting in America’, with testimony from National Football League Communications and Public Affairs Executive Vice President Jocelyn Moore; University of Illinois Professor John Warren Kindt; American Gaming Association Senior Vice President of Public Affairs Sara Slane; Coalition to Stop Online Gambling Counselor Jon Bruning; and Nevada Gaming Control Board Chair Becky Harris Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2141, Washington, DC

10:00 AM House Commerce subcommittee hearing on reducing maternal mortality – House Commerce Health Subcommittee hearing on ‘Better Data and Better Outcomes: Reducing Maternal Mortality in the U.S.’, with testimony from Republican Rep. Jaime Herrera Beutler; The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists Pennsylvania District Legislative Chair Dr. Lynne Coslett-Charlton; National Birth Equity Collaborative Founder and President Dr. Joia Crear Perry; 4Kira4Moms Founder Charles Johnson; and March of Dimes President Stacey Stewart Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2123, Washington, DC

10:00 AM House Technology subcommittee hearing on nuclear energy – Energy Subcommittee hearing on 'Advancing Nuclear Energy: Powering the Future', with testimony from Department of Energy Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Nuclear Energy Edward McGinnis; X-energy President Harlan Bowers; MIT Study on the Future of Nuclear Energy in a Carbon-Constrained World Co-Chair John Parsons; and Idaho National Laboratory Nuclear Science & Technology Associate Laboratory Director John Wagner Location: Rm 2318, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC

10:00 AM House Small Business subcommittee hearing on 'The Local Impact of Economic Growth' – Economic Growth, Tax, and Capital Access Subcommittee hearing on 'The Local Impact of Economic Growth', with testimony from Green JobWorks LLC President Larry Lopez; A&K Development Corporation President Mansour Azimipour; Jones Public Relations President and CEO Brenda Jones Barwick; and Eastern Minority Supplier Development Council President and CEO Valarie Cofield Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2360, Washington, DC

10:15 AM House Natural Resources Committee markup – Markup on 'H. Res. 792, Urging the Secretary of the Interior to recognize the historical significance of Roberto Clemente's place of death near Piñones in Loiza, Puerto Rico, by adding it to the National Register of Historic Places'; H.R. 237, To reauthorize the Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation System Act of 2009, and for other purposes; 'H.R. 3608, To amend the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to require publication on the Internet of the basis for determinations that species are endangered species or threatened species, and for other purposes'; H.R. 6108, To provide for partnerships among State and local governments, regional entities, and the private sector to preserve, conserve, and enhance the visitor experience at nationally significant battlefields of the American Revolution, War of 1812, and Civil War, and for other purposes'; H.R. 6345, To provide for greater county and State consultation with regard to petitions under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, and for other purposes' Location: Longworth House Office Building, Rm 1324, Washington, DC

10:15 AM House Commerce subcommittee hearing on Department of Energy modernization – Energy Subcommittee hearing on 'DOE Modernization: The Office of Cybersecurity, Energy Security, and Emergency Response' Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2322, Washington, DC

10:30 AM House Financial Services Committee hearing on the FHFA, Fannie Mae, and Freddie Mac – House Committee on Financial Services hearing 'Oversight of the Federal Housing Finance Agency's role as conservator and regulator of the Government Sponsored Enterprises', held as part of its investigations into allegations of waste, fraud, and abuse at the Federal Housing Finance Administration and the Government Sponsored Enterprises (GSEs) Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, with testimony from Fannie Mae CEO Timothy Mayopoulos; FHFA Director Mel Watt; FHFA Inspector General Laura Wertheimer; Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation CEO Donald Layton Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2128, Washington, DC

10:30 AM House Veterans Affairs hearing on veteran suicide prevention – Health Subcommittee and full Committee hearing on 'Veteran Suicide Prevention: Maximizing Effectiveness and Increasing Awareness', with testimony from Center for the Prevention of Suicide Director Gregory Brown; Wounded Warrior Project Vice President of Independent Services and Mental Health Michael Richardson; America's Warrior Partnership President and CEO U.S. Air Force (Ret.) Lt. Col. James Lorraine; Guard Your Buddy Co-founder Bill Mulcahy; Department of Veterans Affairs Veterans Health Administration Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Suicide Prevention National Director Keita Franklin; and Veterans Health Administration Readjustment Counseling Service Chief Readjustment Counseling Officer Michael Fisher Location: Rm 334, Cannon House Office Bldg, Washington, DC

11:00 AM House Ways and Means Committee Social Security Subcommittee hearing on the 'State of Social Security's Information Technology' Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2020, Washington, DC

11:30 AM House Judiciary subcommittee hearing on 'The State of Intellectual Freedom in America' – Subcommittee on the Constitution and Civil Justice hearing on 'The State of Intellectual Freedom in America', with testimony from University of North Carolina at

Wilmington Professor Mike Adams; National Association of Scholars President Peter Wood; George Mason University Professor of Law and Accounting Mike Simkovic; George Mason University Professor Tim Groseclose; The Gateway Pundit Founder and Editor Jim Hoft; Boston Herald Radio Host Syndicated Columnist Adriana Cohen; Alliance Defending Freedom Vice President of U.S. Advocacy Jeremy Tedesco; New York Law School Professor of Law Ari Waldman; and Dhillon Law Group Inc Partner Harmeet Dhillon Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2237, Washington, DC

1:30 PM House Foreign Affairs subcommittee hearing on U.S. policy toward Syria – Middle East and North Africa Subcommittee hearing on 'U.S. Policy Toward Syria (Part I)', with testimony from Washington Institute for Near East Policy Friedmann Visiting Fellow Hanin Ghaddar; Center for a New American Security Middle East Security Program Fellow Nicholas Heras; and U.S. Institute of Peace Middle East and North Africa Senior Advisor for Syria Mona Yacoubian Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2172, Washington, DC

1:30 PM House Dems host forum on the state of public education and recovery efforts in Puerto Rico and U.S. Virgin Islands – House Committee on Education and the Workforce Democrats Reps. Bobby Scott, Stacey Plaskett and Nydia Velazquez host a forum to examine whether recovery efforts in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands are meeting the needs of local students, parents, and educators. Participants include American Federation of Teachers President Randi Weingarten, Asociacion de Maestros de Puerto Rico President Aida Diaz-Rivera, AFT Local presidents Rosa Soto-Thomas (St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands) and Carol Callwood (St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands), and Comite PODER's Alfredo Aleman Iglesias Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2360, Washington, DC

2:00 PM House Foreign Affairs subcommittee hearing on Europe and Eurasia – Europe, Eurasia, and Emerging Threats Subcommittee hearing on 'Europe and Eurasia: Ensuring Resources Match Objectives', with testimony from U.S. Agency for International Development Bureau for Europe and Eurasia Assistant Administrator Brock Bierman; State Department Office of the Coordinator of U.S. Assistance to Europe and Eurasia Acting Coordinator Janine Wynne; State Department Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary Emilia Puma; and U.S. Agency for International Development Bureau for Asia Deputy Assistant Administrator Ann Marie Yastishock Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2200, Washington, DC

2:00 PM House Foreign Affairs subcommittee hearing on China and religion – Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations Subcommittee hearing on 'China's War on Christianity and Other Religious Faiths', with testimony from U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom Commissioner Tenzin Dorjee; ChinaAid Founder and President Bob Fu; and Religious Freedom Institute President Thomas Farr Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2255, Washington, DC

2:00 PM House Judiciary Committee hearing on 'Copyright Alternative in Small-Claims Enforcement Act of 2017' – House Judiciary Committee hearing on 'Copyright Alternative in Small-Claims Enforcement Act of 2017', with testimony from Professional Photographers of America (PPA) CEO David Trust; Computer and Communications Industry Association (CCIA) Law and Policy Vice President Matthew Schruers; Buck the Cubicle Director of Photography Jenna Close; Internet Association Senior Vice President and General Counsel Jonathan Berroya; and Copyright Alliance CEO Keith Kupferschmid Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2141, Washington, DC

2:00 PM House Oversight subcommittee hearing on environmental litigation – Interior, Energy, and Environment Subcommittee hearing on 'Restoring Balance to Environmental Litigation' Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2154, Washington, DC

2:00 PM House Oversight subcommittees joint hearing on deregulation – Intergovernmental Affairs Subcommittee and Healthcare, Benefits, and Administrative Rules Subcommittee joint hearing on 'The Benefits of a Deregulatory Agenda: Examples From Pioneering Governments', with testimony from Kentucky Secretary of the Executive Cabinet Scott Brinkman; Canadian Federation of Independent Business Executive Vice President and Chief Strategic Officer Laura Jones; Xero New Markets Product Sales Engineer Matt Vickers; and Public Citizen Regulatory Policy Advocate Amit Narang

Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2247, Washington, DC
2:30 PM Voting rights hearing with the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights – Congressional Black Caucus, Congressional Hispanic Caucus, and Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus members hold Voting Rights Hearing with the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights on the state of voting rights in the U.S., with questioning on the USCCR's 'Assessment of Minority Voting Rights Access in the United States', a recently released report that documents 'ongoing discrimination in voting procedures enacted by states and localities across the country and the roll back of voting rights since the Supreme Court's decision in *Shelby County v. Holder*'. House Minority Whip Steny Hoyer attends, with USCCR Chair Catherine Lhamon, Vice Chair Patricia Timmons-Goodson, and Commissioner Debo Adegbile Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2226, Washington, DC
3:00 PM House Commerce subcommittee hearing on 'State of the Media Marketplace' – Communications and Technology Subcommittee hearing on 'State of the Media Marketplace', with testimony from MoffettNathanson Research Founder and Senior Research Analyst Craig Moffett; S&P Global Market Intelligence Kagan Media Research Group Research Director Ian Olgeirson; and Litton Entertainment ABC's Ocean Treks Wildlife Biologist and Executive Producer Jeff Corwin Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2123, Washington, DC
3:30 PM House Armed Services subcommittee hearing on military review board agencies – Military Personnel Subcommittee hearing on 'Update on Military Review Board Agencies', with testimony from Department of the Army Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army (Review Boards) Francine Blackmon; Air Force Review Boards Agency Director John Fedrigo; and Department of the Navy Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary (Manpower and Reserve Affairs) Robert Woods Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2322, Washington, DC

Other:

Concerned Women for America LAC hold 'I Stand With Brett' rally – Concerned Women for America Legislative Action Committee and coalition groups hold 'I Stand With Brett' rally, in support of U.S. Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh, who is facing two accusations of sexual harassment, both of which he has denied. Speakers include CWA CEO and President Penny Young Nance, Judicial Crisis Network Chief Counsel and Policy Director Carrie Severino, Susan B. Anthony List President Marjorie Dannenfelser, Tea Party Patriots Co-founder and National Coordinator Jenny Beth Martin, CRTV Host Allie Stuckey and Independent Women's Forum Senior Policy Analyst Patrice Onwuka * Kavanaugh and one of his accusers – Dr Christine Blasey Ford – are testifying at a Senate Judiciary Committee hearing today Location: Capitol Hill, Washington, DC

8:30 AM GOP Sen. Rob Portman speaks at AEI on the international shipment of opioids – Republican Sen. Rob Portman keynotes American Enterprise Institute discussion on 'Combating the international shipment of opioids', discussing the Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigation's recent report, 'Combating the Opioid Crisis: Exploiting Vulnerabilities in International Mail'. Followed by panel discussion on international postal agreements, the economic and security concerns they create, and policy solutions, with Postal Policy Consultant Jim Campbell, Hofstra University Professor of Constitutional Law Julian Ku, and former Secretary of Homeland Security Tom Ridge Location: American Enterprise Institute, 1789 Massachusetts Ave NW, Washington, DC

9:00 AM Dem Rep. Susan Davis keynotes education discussion at BPC – 'The Future of U.S. Higher Education: Confronting Challenges in a Changing Landscape' Bipartisan Policy Center discussion, exploring 'key issues, including an exploration of the roles that the federal government, the states, and institutions can play in promoting better outcomes, access and affordability'. Speakers include keynote Democratic Rep. Susan Davis and State Higher Education Executive Officers Association President Robert Anderson, Politico Senior Education Writer Kimberly Hefling, Institute for College Access and Success President James Kvaal, Institute of Education Sciences Director Mark Schneider and former House Education and Workforce Committee Chairmen George Miller and Buck McKeon Location: Bipartisan Policy Center, 1225 I St NW, Washington, DC

Industry' – The Washington Post hosts 'Taking Flight: The Economics of the Aviation Industry', the second event in a three-part series examining all aspects of the aviation industry, with speakers including Democratic Sen. Edward Markey, Republican Sen. Jerry Moran, GE Aviation Chief Marketing Officer Laurant Rouaud, Boom Supersonic Founder and CEO Blake Scholl, Aerospace Industries Association Civil Aviation Vice President David Silver, Honeywell Aerospace Connected Aircraft Vice President Kristin Slyker, and University of Southern California Viterbi School of Engineering Assistant Professor Alejandra Uranga Location: The Washington Post, 1301 K Street Northwest, Washington, DC

9:00 AM NHCA Legislative Summit – National Hispanic Construction Association Legislative Summit, with speakers including Democratic Rep. Adriano Espaillat Location: Capitol Hill, Washington, DC

10:00 AM U.S. surgeon general speaks on the upcoming flu season at NPC – 2018 Annual National Foundation for Infectious Diseases Influenza/Pneumococcal news conference, discussing the final 017-2018 flu vaccination coverage data and preparations for 2018-2019 season. Speakers include U.S. Surgeon General Jerome Adams Location: National Press Club, 529 14th St NW, Washington, DC 2004

10:00 AM NASA Administrator Bridenstine discusses training and future missions with newest astronaut class – NASA Administrator Jim Bridenstine joins the agency's newest class of astronaut trainees to talk about their experiences in the training program and hopes for future missions, and take questions from the audience, in a live episode of 'Watch This Space'. Candidates include Zena Cardman, Jasmin Moghbeli, Jonny Kim, Frank Rubio, Matthew Dominick, Warren Hoburg, Kayla Barron, Bob Hines, Raja Chari, Loral O'Hara, and Jessica Watkins (all NASA), and Joshua Kutryk and Jenni Sidey-Gibbons (Canadian Space Agency) Location: NASA Headquarters, Washington, DC

10:00 AM Dem Rep. Pete Aguilar speaks at Library of Congress National Hispanic Heritage Month event – Democratic Rep. Pete Aguilar speaks at Library of Congress in honor of National Hispanic Heritage Month, discussing issues facing Latinos today and his experience as a Latino member of Congress Location: James Madison Memorial Building, 101 Independence Avenue Southeast, Washington, DC

10:00 AM NOW rally in support of Christine Blasey Ford – National Organization for Women rally in support of Christine Blasey Ford, as she testifies to the Senate Judiciary Committee on her sexual harassment accusations against U.S. Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh * Kavanaugh has denied the allegations, and is also due to testify at today's committee hearing Location: Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, DC

11:00 AM USIP sixth Bipartisan Congressional Dialogue 'China: Managing Conflict and Competition' – 'China: Managing Conflict and Competition' U.S. Institute of Peace Bipartisan Congressional Dialogue with Republican Rep. Chris Stewart and Democratic Rep. Dutch Ruppersberger, who both see tension rising as cooperation recedes and the People's Republic of China increases its malicious activity in cyberspace, expands its military capabilities and presence around the globe, and uses economic tools to gain strategic leverage and undermine democracy in fragile states. The Reps. discuss Congress' efforts to focus attention on China's military, diplomatic, and economic approaches around the globe at USIP's sixth Bipartisan Congressional Dialogue Location: U.S. Institute of Peace, 2301 Constitution Ave NW, Washington, DC

12:00 PM Dem Rep. Gwen Moore speaks on the political history of Wisconsin at EPI event – 'The Fall of Wisconsin: The Conservative Conquest of a Progressive Bastion and the Future of American Politics' Economic Policy Institute book discussion, on the political history of Wisconsin. Panelists include Democratic Rep. Gwen Moore, author Daniel Kaufman, EPI Senior Economic Analyst David Cooper and Campaign Legal Center Federal Reform Director Brendan Fischer Location: Economic Policy Institute (EPI), 1225 I St NW, Washington, DC

1:30 PM VA Secretary Wilkie hosts online 'State of VA Community Town Hall' – Secretary of Veterans Affairs Robert Wilkie hosts online 'State of VA Community Town Hall', to discuss how the department is 'focused on becoming the leader in customer experience and improve services to our nation's Veterans through various initiatives such as engagement with community partners, leaders, advocates, state/county VA

departments, Department of Defense, Veteran Service Organizations, and community Veterans engagement board'. Other panelists include Dr Lynda Davis (VA Veterans Experience Office), Dr Richard Stone (Veterans Health Administration), Dr Paul Lawrence (Veterans Benefits Administration), Randy Reeves (National Cemetery Administration), Alfie Alvarado-Ramos (National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs), Herman Breuer (National Association of County Veterans Service Officers), Anthony Wickham (National Guard), and Stephen Austin (Army Reserve)

2:00 PM GOP Sen. Ron Johnson speaks on the U.S. electrical grid at Heritage Foundation – 'Protecting the Grid: Options for Innovations and Strategic Actions' Heritage Foundation discussion, exploring the 'potential impacts of reliance on electronics on American infrastructure and population, as well as the critical tasks that should be undertaken to minimize such a threat'. Speakers include Republican Sen. Ron Johnson, James Madison University Professor Emeritus George Baker, Exelon Senior Vice President David Brown, and Center for National Defense Senior Policy Analyst Michaela Dodge
Location: Heritage Foundation, 214 Massachusetts Ave NE, Washington, DC

4:30 PM Federal Reserve Chair remarks on U.S. economy at Senator Reed's Rhode Island Business Leaders Day – Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell offers brief remarks on the U.S. economy at Democratic Sen. Jack Reed's Rhode Island Business Leaders Day
Location: Hart Senate Office Building, 902, Washington, DC

6:00 PM Community Change Champion Awards – Community Change Champion Awards, honoring those working to change the lives of low-income communities and people of color across the country. Honorees include Democratic Rep. John Lewis, Fair Immigration Reform Movement, JPB Foundation President Barbara Picower, Unidad Latina en Accion's John Jairo Lugo, Outgoing President Deepak Bhargava. Master of ceremonies is political commentator Melissa Harris-Perry
Location: U.S. Institute of Peace, 2301 Constitution Ave NW, Washington, DC

7:00 PM National Press Club 'Press vs. Politicians' Spelling Bee – National Press Club 'Press vs. Politicians' Spelling Bee. Representing the Politicians Team are: Democratic Reps. Suzanne Bonamici, Ted Deutch and Jamie Raskin and Republican Reps. Doug Lamborn and Mark Meadows. On the press team are: Todd Gillman (The Dallas Morning News), Alison Fitzgerald Kodjak (NPR), Alexandra Petri (The Washington Post), and Tamar Hallerman (Atlanta Journal-Constitution)
Location: National Press Club, 529 14th Street NW, Washington, DC

U.N. General Debate continues – United Nations high-level General Debate continues, during which speeches are made by world leaders. Part of the U.N. General Assembly 73rd Regular Session – the main deliberative, policymaking and representative organ of the U.N. – which opened 18 Sep * Speakers today include European Council President Donald Tusk
Location: United Nations Headquarters, New York, NY

Republican Rep. Tom Garrett and Democratic Rep. Bobby Scott host the family of Barbara Rose Johns
Location: U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC

Last Laughs

Late Night Political Humor.

Conan O'Brien: "Big hearings for potential Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh...start tomorrow. Everyone is wondering what's going to happen and a lot of stuff happening at the last minute. For his defense, Brett Kavanaugh submitted into evidence his summer of 1982 calendar. So far, the only thing that it proves about Kavanaugh is he's a weird freak who keeps calendars from 1982."

Conan O'Brien: In his calendar, Kavanaugh "mentions seeing movies like Rocky III and Grease II. I think this hurts his credibility because what idiot would leave hard evidence that they saw Grease II?"

Conan O'Brien: "Trump spoke at the UN yesterday. Analysts say President Trump treated his UN speech yesterday as if he was at one of his rallies. ... Trump said his

favorite part was getting the crowd to chant, 'Lock her up' in 17 different languages."

Conan O'Brien: "President Trump has a brand new technologically upgraded presidential limousine. It's supposed to be very fancy with all the latest technology. For Trump's protection, the limo comes with bulletproof windows and no Twitter."

Trevor Noah: "Today, President Trump chaired a meeting of the UN Security Council and the good news is he now believes that foreign countries do meddle in US elections. The bad news is he only cares if he thinks it will hurt him. ... This is genius. You realize that Trump is basically saying that if he gets crushed in the midterms, it's not because he's bad, it's because is he so good, China had to do something about it."

Trevor Noah: "No one knows where he got this hacking claim from. He could have gotten it from the CIA or maybe he just got a fortune cookie he didn't like."

Trevor Noah: "The big story today, like every day before it, stretching as far back as I can remember, is Brett Kavanaugh. ... Honestly it feels like at this point, we have all received lifetime appointments to the story."

Jimmy Kimmel: "This afternoon, Donald Trump treated the media gathered in New York to a rambling, angry, jumbled, dishonest, and frequently incoherent hour-and-20-minute-long press conference. ... The wheels are off the wagon. It's time to put Grandpa in an assisted living facility because he cannot care for himself. What a performance this was. It was like the craziest voice mail from your mom ever."

Jimmy Kimmel: "This press conference was successful only in that he did not physically melt or explode during it."

Jimmy Kimmel: "Brett Kavanaugh seems to be backing off his claim on Fox News that he was a model student. In his prepared testimony today, he wrote, 'In retrospect, I said and did things in high school that make me cringe now.' In retrospect, you said things on Fox News three days ago that should make you cringe now."

Jimmy Kimmel: "All three accusers want the FBI to investigate their claims. Republicans, Brett Kavanaugh, don't want the FBI to investigate. I wonder why that is. At this point, Donald Trump has to be like, 'I knew we should have gone with Judge Judy.'"

Jimmy Kimmel: "For now, anyway, Trump is standing by his man. He said, 'Brett Kavanaugh is an absolute gem.' It's weird that Donald Trump has shown more affection for Brett Kavanaugh this week than he has for Eric and Don Jr. in really all of their entire lives."

Stephen Colbert: "The top story is still about Supreme Court nominee and man counting his accusers, Brett Kavanaugh. ... This morning, we learned new allegations against Kavanaugh from a woman named Julie Swetnick, and she says that back in high school, she 'attended well over ten parties where Kavanaugh was present and saw him drink excessively at many of these parties and engage in abusive and physically aggressive behavior towards girls.' Now, do we want someone on the Supreme Court who treated women this way, even in high school? I'm not sure we want someone who even attended 10 parties in high school. We want nerds."

Jimmy Fallon: "If this all goes well, I might get as many laughs as Trump's speech at the UN."

Jimmy Fallon: "After UN diplomats laughed at his speech yesterday, President Trump said that it was supposed to be funny. Basically Trump is that guy who trips in front of everyone and then tries to turn it into a tiny jog."

Jimmy Fallon: "After a toast at the UN, Trump was spotted drinking Diet Coke out of a wine glass, but only after sniffing a sample and swirling it around first."

Jimmy Fallon: "I read that Trump just got a new \$1.5 million limo. It fires tear gas, has night vision, and can lay down an oil slick to make anyone chasing it spin out of control. Even crazier, Melania's bedroom door does the exact same thing."

James Corden: "A third woman has now come forward accusing Brett Kavanaugh of sexual misconduct during his time in high school. That's three accusers, or as Republicans call it, 'three strikes and you are voted in for a lifetime appointment.'"

James Corden: "These accusations are disgusting. This is not how a Supreme Court justice behaves. It's how the President of the United States behaves, but not a Supreme Court justice."

James Corden: Trump's press conference Wednesday "was absolutely surreal. Trump even wrapped things up by saying he wanted to get out on a high note, the way – and I'm not making this up – Elton John does at a concert. What? This is a press conference. This is crazy. Although at that point, Trump could have put on a sequined jacket and launched into a rendition of "Crocodile Rock" and it still wouldn't have been the weirdest part of that press conference."

James Corden: "Is there any way that President Trump and Elton John can just switch places? Because if there is anyone who should be on a farewell tour right now, it should be Donald Trump."

Seth Meyers: "The Secret Service's new presidential limo cost \$1.5 million and reportedly includes features such as the ability to electrify door handles to shock anyone trying to get inside. 'What if you're trying to get out?' asked one woman."

Copyright 2018 by Bulletin Intelligence LLC Reproduction or redistribution without permission prohibited. Content is drawn from thousands of newspapers, national magazines, national and local television programs, radio broadcasts, social-media platforms and additional forms of open-source data. Sources for Bulletin Intelligence audience-size estimates include Scarborough, GfK MRI, comScore, Nielsen, and the Audit Bureau of Circulation. Data from and access to third party social media platforms, including but not limited to Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and others, is subject to the respective platform's terms of use. Services that include Factiva content are governed by Factiva's [terms of use](#). Services including embedded Tweets are also subject to [Twitter for Website's information and privacy policies](#). The Department of the Interior News Briefing is published five days a week by Bulletin Intelligence, which creates custom briefings for government and corporate leaders. We can be found on the Web at BulletinIntelligence.com, or called at (703) 483-6100.

Conversation Contents

LEGISLATIVE REFERRAL: (DUE 9/21/18 @ 12 PM) HRG #191 - EPA (Wheeler) Questions for the Record from 8/1/18 Hearing Re: Examining EPA's Agenda: Protecting the Environment and Allowing America's Economy to Grow

Attachments:

/3. LEGISLATIVE REFERRAL: (DUE 9/21/18 @ 12 PM) HRG #191 - EPA (Wheeler) Questions for the Record from 8/1/18 Hearing Re: Examining EPA's Agenda: Protecting the Environment and Allowing America's Economy to Grow/1.1 2018.09.17 - OMB DRAFT REVIEW - ALL Wheeler QFRs 08.01.2018.docx

"Nevils, Joseph" <joseph_nevils@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Nevils, Joseph" <joseph_nevils@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Mon Sep 17 2018 15:14:39 GMT-0600 (MDT)
OS <katharine_macgregor@ios.doi.gov>, OS
<todd_willens@ios.doi.gov>, OS
<james_cason@ios.doi.gov>, DS
<gareth_rees@ios.doi.gov>, DS
<dwbernhardt@ios.doi.gov>, OIG
<Lori_Vassar@doioig.gov>, OIG
<nancy_dipaolo@doioig.gov>, OIG
<bruce_delaplaine@doioig.gov>, OCL Office
<Chris_Salotti@ios.doi.gov>, OCL Office
<micah_chambers@ios.doi.gov>, OCL Office
<john_tanner@ios.doi.gov>, OCL Office
<james_voyles@ios.doi.gov>, OCL Office
<katie_mills@ios.doi.gov>, OCL Office
<aaron_thiele@ios.doi.gov>, OCL Office
<jennifer_morales@ios.doi.gov>, "A/S-PMB"
<Amy_Holley@ios.doi.gov>, "A/S-PMB"
<Denise_Flanagan@ios.doi.gov>, "A/S-PMB"
<Abigail_D_Miller@ios.doi.gov>, "A/S-PMB"
<robert_gordon@ios.doi.gov>, "A/S-PMB"
<Scott_Cameron@ios.doi.gov>, PPA
<Shawn_Buckner@ios.doi.gov>, PPA
<Chloe_Mayne@ios.doi.gov>, PPA
<gregg_renkes@ios.doi.gov>, POB
<adrianne_moss@ios.doi.gov>, POB
<jason_freihage@ios.doi.gov>, POB
<tiffany_taylor@ios.doi.gov>, POB
<patrick_joos@ios.doi.gov>, OEPC
<michaela_noble@ios.doi.gov>, OEPC
<bryan_arroyo@ios.doi.gov>, "A/S-IA/BIA"
<Karen.Frazier@bia.gov>, "A/S-IA/BIA" <eugenia.tyner-

To:

dawson@bia.gov>, "A/S-IA/BIA"
<elizabeth.appel@bia.gov>, "A/S-IA/BIA"
<shawn.pensoneau@bia.gov>, "A/S-FWP"
<maureen_foster@ios.doi.gov>, "A/S-FWP"
<wendy_r_fink@ios.doi.gov>, FWS
<angela_gustavson@fws.gov>, FWS
<Martin_Kodis@fws.gov>, FWS
<alyssa_hausman@fws.gov>, FWS
<lisa_m_jones@fws.gov>, FWS
<devin_helfrich@fws.gov>, FWS <taylor_pool@fws.gov>, FWS
<marian_howe@fws.gov>, NPS
<Charles_Laudner@nps.gov>, NPS
<Sarah_Gamble@nps.gov>, NPS
<Susan_Farinelli@nps.gov>, NPS
<Melissa_Kuckro@nps.gov>, BOR
<MMAUCIERI@usbr.gov>, BOR <RWolf@usbr.gov>, BOR
<ksabo@usbr.gov>, BOR <ctrent@usgs.gov>, BOR
<mkelhart@usbr.gov>, "A/S-LM-Dove"
<william_dove@ios.doi.gov>, BLM
<William_E_Holmes@blm.gov>, BLM
<micelle_reid@blm.gov>, BLM <jralston@blm.gov>, BLM
<mgins@blm.gov>, BLM <jcmoran@blm.gov>, BLM
<wholmes@blm.gov>, BLM <mareid@blm.gov>, SOL
<Marigrace.Caminiti@sol.doi.gov>, SOL
<edward.keable@sol.doi.gov>, SOL-GL
<rachel.spector@sol.doi.gov>, SOL-LR
<Laura.Brown@sol.doi.gov>, SOL-LR
<renee.cooper@sol.doi.gov>, SOL-LR
<aaron.moody@sol.doi.gov>, SOL-WR
<scott.bergstrom@sol.doi.gov>, SOL-WR
<carter.brown@sol.doi.gov>, SOL-WR
<keith.saxe@sol.doi.gov>, SOL-PW
<Kathleen.Aiken@sol.doi.gov>, SOL-PW
<peg.romanik@sol.doi.gov>, SOL-PW
<louise.milkman@sol.doi.gov>

CC:

OCL Office <Dominic_Maione@ios.doi.gov>

LEGISLATIVE REFERRAL: (DUE 9/21/18 @ 12 PM) HRG #191 - EPA (Wheeler) Questions for the Record from 8/1/18 Hearing Re: Examining EPA's Agenda: Protecting the Environment and Allowing America's Economy to Grow

Attachments:

2018.09.17 - OMB DRAFT REVIEW - ALL Wheeler QFRs 08.01.2018.docx

DEADLINE: FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2018 @ 12 PM

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL REFERRAL

Date: September 17, 2018
To: Legislative Liaison

From: Dominic Maione (208-4092)

Contact: Joe Nevils (208-4580)

Subject: HRG #191 - EPA (Wheeler) Questions for the Record from 8/1/18 Hearing

Re: Examining EPA's Agenda: Protecting the Environment and Allowing America's Economy to Grow

Note to Reviewers:

Please review the attached 78 page wide-ranging QFRs from EPA Administrator Wheeler for a 8/1 SEPW hearing and provide any comments by the deadline above.

Please note that these QFRs include questions on RVP waiver and RVO Rule (1-2, 25) PFAS (3-4, 26), SAB (4-5), TSCA (5-12, 26-28, 33-36) CAA-MATS-DERA (13-14, 17-19), vehicle fuel efficiency rules (14-16), rulemaking (16), RFS RIN (19-23), FTEs (23) CERCLA/Animal Waste (24), PCBs (29), IRIS (30-32), FIFRA (36-38), scientific integrity (38-39), strategic plan (39), climate change (41), CERCLA (45-50), enforcement, etc.

Please send agency comments or respond with a "no comment" to Dominic_Maione@ios.doi.gov and Joseph_Nevils@ios.doi.gov by the deadline above.

Attachment(s): 1

--

Joseph Nevils

Legislative Assistant

Department of the Interior
1849 C St, NW 20240
(202) 208-4580 (O)
(202) 208-7619 (F)